

## Did you know...



Music is a great tool for the development of language and listening skills. By participating in music activities, your child can expand their vocabulary and improve their attention span, concentration, and memory.

Singing helps children develop phonological awareness, which is the ability to hear the smallest sounds in letters and words. When you sing, syllables are broken apart and children can hear letter sounds and rhymes clearly.

You don't have to be a great singer to sing with your child. If you don't know melodies or words of familiar children's songs, there are a lot of websites you can refer to. You can also check out CDs and songbooks from your local library.

## Here's how...

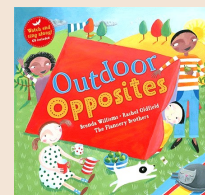


- ✿ Play CDs in the car while you are driving around the community.
- ✿ Make up silly songs as you go through your day, such as, "If you're hungry and you know it, eat a snack."
- ✿ Find out what songs your child is learning in school and sing them around the house. Many songs can be found on YouTube if you don't know the tune.
- ✿ Sing in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- ✿ Go to free local family-style concerts and enjoy some music together.
- ✿ Go to [www.phonologicalawareness.org](http://www.phonologicalawareness.org) for activities to help your child hear letter sounds and rhymes.

## Read

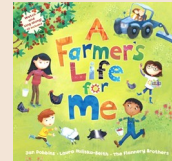
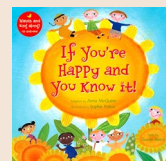
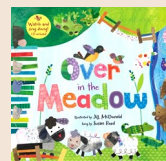


### **Outdoor Opposites, by Brenda Williams**



This colorful book of opposites shows how children enjoy outdoor activities, such as jumping in or jumping out, going high or going low. Opposites are a concept that young children need to practice in order to master. The CD that goes with this book will have your child singing along as they learn what opposites mean.

This book is part of a collection of books with sing-along CDs.



## Choose Books



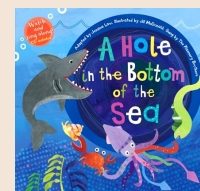
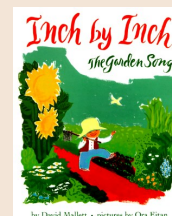
### **Other books to sing along with:**

"A" You're Adorable, by  
Martha Alexander

*Inch by Inch: The Garden  
Song*, by David Mallett

*Going to the Zoo*, by Tom  
Paxton

*Spider on the Floor*, by Raffi



*We're Going on a Bear  
Hunt*, by Michael Rosen

*A Hole at the Bottom of the  
Sea*, by Jessica Law



## Recognizing Reading Problems

By: *Reading Rockets* (2007)

Learning to read is a challenge for many kids, but most can become good readers if they get the right help. Parents have an important job in recognizing when a child is struggling and knowing how to find help.

### What to look for:

- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty hearing individual sounds
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty re-telling a story
- Struggles to sound out most words
- Avoids reading aloud

If you think your kindergartner is struggling with learning to read, talk to her teacher sooner rather than later. The school can provide free support if needed!

## Write



Your child can begin writing Thank You notes to friends and relatives. Write the words “thank you” on a separate sheet of paper. Let your child copy the words on a handmade card, then draw a nice picture.

## Play



### Sometimes

Sometimes I am tall. (*stand tall*)

Sometimes I am small. (*bend knees*)

Sometimes I am very, very tall. (*stand on tiptoes*)

Sometimes I am very, very small. (*crouch down*)

Sometimes tall, (*stand tall*)

Sometimes small. (*bend knees*)

Sometimes neither tall nor small.

(*Stand normally, or sit down*)

## Sing



### Sing a Song of Opposites

(to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*)  
(use props or act out)

This is big and this is small,

This is big; this is small,

This is big and this is small,

Sing along with me.

*Additional verses:*

This is tall and this is short...

This is up and this is down...

This is in and this is out...

This is soft and this is hard...

This is fast and this is slow...

This is here and this is there...



By Pam Schiller

Hear this tune at:

[www.thelearninggroove.com](http://www.thelearninggroove.com)

(under “Lyrics and Activities” then “song title”)

## At your library...



Check at your library for CDs and DVDs of children’s songs. You can find special holiday music or songs you can sing year-round!